

HOUSE MEMORIAL 109

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE 2008 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL READING ADOPTION AND
ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO NARROW THE
ADOPTION LIST TO ONLY SCIENTIFICALLY BASED INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS.

WHEREAS, reading is the very foundation of formal
education in the modern world, for without the ability to read,
a child is not able to progress successfully through the
remainder of a school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, reading is a learned skill that includes oral
language, phonological awareness, print awareness and
alphabetic awareness; and

WHEREAS, a child's failure to learn to read often results
in a devastating downward spiral that leads to low self-esteem

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1 and underachievement, both in school and in life; and

2 WHEREAS, an extensive knowledge base now exists to show
3 teachers and parents the skills students must learn to read
4 well, and these skills provide the basis for sound curriculum
5 decisions and instructional approaches that can help prevent
6 the predictable consequences of early reading failure; and

7 WHEREAS, the state has invested in the reading initiative,
8 the literacy for children at risk program, kindergarten plus,
9 pre-kindergarten and now K-3 plus to help low-income children,
10 in particular, learn to read; and

11 WHEREAS, those programs, as well as other elementary
12 school reading programs, are required to teach reading using
13 scientifically based methods; and

14 WHEREAS, given the statutory requirements for
15 scientifically based reading programs, it is extremely
16 important that the instructional materials adopted by the
17 public education department be aligned with those requirements;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the department must adopt reading instructional
20 materials in 2008, and it is imperative that it adopt only
21 those reading materials and programs that are scientifically
22 proven to teach children how to read;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES that the legislative education study committee
25 be requested to study the public education department's reading

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underscoring material = new
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1 instructional materials adoption process and assist the
2 department and legislature, as needed, to ensure that only
3 scientifically proven instructional materials are adopted; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
5 department be strongly encouraged to limit the reading
6 adoption, not only in quantity of materials adopted but in
7 quality as well, adopting only those instructional materials
8 that have been proven through scientific research to enhance
9 early language, cognitive and reading development skills and
10 that are based on the latest scientifically based research on
11 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text
12 comprehension; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and
15 the public education department.

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